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TAGS: PREL, PINS, PTER, EUN, RW, BY, GR

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN UNION COMMUNIQUE ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A COMMUNIQUE OF THE EU PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ISSUED ON 12 APRIL IN BRUSSELS.

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BEGIN TEXT:

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PRESIDENCY ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON RWANDA AND BURUNDI

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS DEEPLY CONCERNED TO LEARN OF THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS LED TO THE DEATH IN KIGALI OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF RWANDA AND BURUNDI TOGETHER WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR ENTOURAGE. IT WANTS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE FULLY THE CAUSES OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT AND URGES

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ALL RWANDESE AUTHORITIES TO SAFEGUARD THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ARUSHA AGREEMENTS.

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS ALSO DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF A NUMBER OF BELGIAN CITIZENS IN RWANDA, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY. IT STRONGLY CONDEMNS THESE APPALLING ASSASSINATIONS AND HOPES THAT JUSTICE WILL BE DONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

THE EUROPEAN UNION APPEALS IN THE STRONGEST TERMS FOR THE LIVES OF RWANDESE AND FOREIGN NATIONALS TO BE PROTECTED AS THEY WORK TOGETHER WITHIN RWANDA TO SAFEGUARD ITS INTERNAL PEACE AND ITS PROSPERITY.

END TEXT.

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